Novel Will Testify On Wiretapping Bill

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Gordon Novel, wanted as a witness in the Kennedy assassination probe in New Orleans, will switch from the courtroom to the Ohio Senate Wednesday to testify on two anti-wiretapping bills.

State Sen. Ralph Regula, R-Navarre, confirmed Tuesday that he requested Novel's "expert testimony" during the hearings on the "ban the bug" bill before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Novel's Columbus attorney, Jerry Weiner, said his client had agreed to appear before the committee.

THE BILLS, sponsored by Regula, would prohibit wiretapping and electronic bugging and would ban eavesdropping on private conversations.

Novel, former New Orleans night club owner, is wanted in Louisiana as a material witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's controversial assassination investigation.

Novel claims he can "expose Garrison's fraud." The 29-year-old alleged fugitive said he worked as a double agent during February, performing bugging duties both for and against Garrison.

HE WAS ARRESTED April 1 in Gahanna on a Louisiana charge of conspiracy to commit simple burglary filed by Garrison. He is free in Columbus on $10,000 bond.

Tuesday, Novel voluntarily appeared in the Columbus Clerk of Courts office after Garrison filed theft charges with Gahanna police.

Garrison's charges involve about $3400 taken from a New Orleans printing firm and a commercial artist.

NOVEL HAS countered that the so-called thefts are civil matters involving alleged debts.

He remained free on the same bond.

Meanwhile, Governor Rhodes' office reported Wednesday the expected extradition papers still have not been received from Louisiana.

No news made